

UNCLASSIFIED

LEBANON

C O N F I D E N T I A L

BEIRUT 04040

ACTION: POL-1

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 004040

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PTER, PREL, LE, AR

SUBJECT: A SHADOW ON ARGENTINE-LEBANESE TIES

REF: BEIRUT 3909

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR IN LEBANON, JUAN ANGEL FARALDO, LEFT BEIRUT EARLY THIS WEEK TO RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES FOR CONSULTATIONS. OBSERVERS, BOTH FOREIGN AND LEBANESE, ARE CONVINCED THAT FARALDO'S UNEXPECTED DEPARTURE IS TIED TO THE ARGENTINE INVESTIGATION INTO THE AMIA BOMBING. ARGENTINA NOW HAS ONLY ONE DIPLOMAT IN BEIRUT, WHO IS ACTING AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, FM BUWAYZ, IN COMMENTING PUBLICLY ON ALLEGATIONS EMANATING FROM ARGENTINA ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD AS YET RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE FROM ARGENTINA.

4. COMMENT: IN THE SMALL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMUNITY OF BEIRUT, THE PRECIPITATE DEPARTURE OF AN AMBASSADOR ENGENDERS SIGNIFICANT COMMENT. ONE EXPLANATION WE HEARD RECENTLY, THAT MAY BE ON THE MARK, WAS THAT ARGENTINA WAS FEARFUL OF REPERCUSSIONS AGAINST ITS INTERESTS IN LEBANON IN THE EVENT ITS INVESTIGATIONS WERE TO POINT TO HIZBALLAH AND ARRESTS WERE MADE.

HAMBLEY

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